

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A method for enabling a product associated with an image to be provided to a user, comprising:

(a) employing the context of an interaction to determine the image to be displayed, the image being displayed and being associated with information indicating each product that is available for use with the image;

(b) automatically employing the information associated with the image to generate a representation of each product that is available for use with the image;

(c) automatically displaying the image and the representation of each product that is available for use with the image in a page; and

(d) when the representation of an available product is selected, enabling the available product for use with the image to be provided.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the image is stored in a database.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the image is formatted and stored in the database as a picture, the format including JPEG, GIF, TIFF and PIC.

4. The method of Claim 2, wherein the image is formatted and stored in the database as a movie, the format including MPEG, QTM and AVI.

5. The method of Claim 2, wherein the database is a relational database.

6. The method of Claim 2, wherein the database is an object oriented database.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the information associated with the image is stored in a file that includes image data.

8. The method of Claim 7, further comprising employing a facility create an IPTC format for associated information that is included in the file that includes image data.

9. The method of Claim 2, wherein the information associated with the image is stored in the database separate from a file that includes image data.

10. The method of Claim 9, further comprising associating an SQL attribute with the image, the SQL attribute corresponding to a script that enables a functionality for the image.

11. The method of Claim 1, wherein the information associated with the image includes image related data.

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein the image related data is tag data that includes title, location, date, original author, model release, subject matter information and name of a subject in the image.

13. The method of Claim 11, wherein the image related data is business data that includes source, contract, batch, royalty, territory and contract expiration.

14. The method of Claim 1, wherein the information associated with the image identifies a type of available product for the image.

15. The method of Claim 1, wherein the representation of each available product includes different types of representation, including picture, video, graphical image, graphical icon and text.

16. The method of Claim 1, wherein the page is an HTML page.

17. The method of Claim 1, further comprising employing a combination of user information, image information, product information and contextual interaction information to determine the display of the image and the product.

18. The method of Claim 1, wherein the image is a cut-down version having a size that is less than a full size of an original version of the image.

19. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
(a) including a non-visible watermark in the image; and
(b) enabling the non-visible watermark in the image to be identified with an application program.

20. The method of Claim 1, further comprising including a visible watermark in the image.

21. The method of Claim 1, further comprising associating another type of data with the image data, the other type of data including video, sound and graphic.

22. The method of Claim 21, wherein the sound has a format, including WAV and MP3.

23. The method of Claim 1, further comprising an agent program that automatically employs contextual interaction information to determine the image to be displayed.

24. The method of Claim 23, wherein the agent program performs a search of at least one database on a network to determine the image to be displayed.

25. A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in Claim 1.

26. A system for enabling a product associated with an image to be provided to a user, comprising:

- (a) a server for implementing logical actions, including:
 - (i) in response to receiving contextual interaction information from a client, providing the image to the client, wherein the image is associated with information indicating each product that is available for use with the image; and
 - (ii) in response to a request to provide a product that is available for use with the image, enabling the product to be provided; and
- (b) the client for implementing logical actions, including:
 - (i) providing the contextual interaction information to the server;
 - (ii) when the image is received from the server, automatically employing the information associated with the image to generate a representation of each product that is available for use with the image;
 - (iii) automatically displaying the image and the representation of each product that is available for use with the image in a page; and
 - (iv) when the representation of an available product is selected, enabling the available product for use with the image to be provided.

27. A method for enabling a product associated with an image to be provided to a user, comprising:

- (a) employing the context of an interaction to determine a representation of the product to be displayed, the representation of the product being displayed and being associated with information indicating each image that is available for use with the product;
- (b) automatically employing the information associated with the product to display at least one image that is available for use with the product;

(c) automatically displaying the image and the representation of each product that is available for the image in a page; and

(d) when the representation of an available product is selected, enabling the available product for the image to be provided.

28. The method of Claim 27, wherein the image is stored in a database.

29. The method of Claim 28, wherein the image is formatted and stored in the database as a picture, the format including JPEG, GIF, TIFF and PIC.

30. The method of Claim 28, wherein the image is formatted and stored in the database as a movie, the format including MPEG, QTM and AVI.

31. The method of Claim 27, further comprising employing a combination of user information, product information, image information and contextual interaction information to determine the display of the image and the product.

32. The method of Claim 27, wherein the information associated with the product includes properties and options.

33. The method of Claim 27, further comprising associating information with the image, including image related data.

34. The method of Claim 33, wherein the image related data is tag data that includes title, location, date, original author, model release, subject matter information and name of a subject in the image.

35. The method of Claim 33, wherein the image related data is business data that includes source, contract, royalty, territory, contract expiration and batch.

36. The method of Claim 33, wherein the information associated with the image identifies a type of available product for the image.

37. The method of Claim 27, wherein the representation of each available product includes different types of representation, including picture, video, graphical image, graphical icon and text.

38. The method of Claim 27, further comprising associating another type of data with the product, the other type of data including video, sound and graphic.

39. The method of Claim 27, further comprising an agent program that automatically employs contextual interaction information to determine the image to be displayed.

40. The method of Claim 39, wherein the agent program performs a search of at least one database on a network to determine the image to be displayed.

41. A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in Claim 27.

42. A client-server based system for implementing the actions in the method recited in Claim 27.

43. A method for enabling a product associated with an image to be ordered over a network, comprising:

(a) displaying the image in response to receiving contextual interaction information, image being associated with information indicating each product that is available for the image;

(b) in response to selecting the displayed image, automatically employing the information associated with the image to generate a representation of each available product for the image;

(c) automatically displaying the image and the representation of each available product for the image in a page; and

(d) when the representation of an available product is selected in the page, enabling the available product for the image to be ordered by a user.

44. The method of Claim 43, further comprising entering a value for a search in a point of entry page, the value being employed to search a database that includes a plurality of images.

45. The method of Claim 43, further comprising displaying a result of the search in a result page, an affirmative result causing at least one image related to the search to be displayed in the result page.

46. The method of Claim 43, further comprising in response to a selection of a displayed image, displaying a product page that includes the representation of each available product for the selected image.

47. The method of Claim 46, wherein the available product includes picture, electronic postcard, poster, screen saver, wallpaper, calendar, stationary, invitation, presentation, slideshow, puzzle and cup.

48. The method of Claim 43, further comprising in response to a selection of the representation of the available product for the selected image, displaying a create page that includes a representation for each option associated with the selected product for the selected image.

49. The method of Claim 48, wherein an option for the selected product, includes at least one template.

50. The method of Claim 48, wherein an option for the selected product is a type of use for the selected product, the type of use including single, free and subscription.

51. The method of Claim 48, further comprising in response to a selection of the representation of an option associated with the selected product, displaying a transaction page that includes each option for a transaction to order the selected product.

52. The method of Claim 49, further comprising in response to the selection of subscription, displaying a subscription page that includes each option for selecting a subscription membership including individual, business, institutional and renewal.

53. The method of Claim 48, wherein an option for the transaction to obtain the selected product includes send, print, purchase and add to virtual shopping cart.

54. The method of Claim 48, wherein each option associated with the available product is displayed on another page.

55. The method of Claim 43, further comprising:
(a) generating behavior information and preferences in each session for each user; and
(b) storing the behavior information and preferences in a profile, each profile being associated with a user.

56. The method of Claim 55, further comprising employing the profile to customize the display of the image, a current user being associated with the profile.

57. The method of Claim 55, further comprising employing the profile to customize the display of the available product, a current user being associated with the profile.

58. The method of Claim 55, further comprising assigning a temporary identifier to a current user.

59. The method of Claim 58, further comprising:

(a) employing the temporary identifier to determine when the current user is a repeat user, the repeat user having a previously assigned permanent identifier; and

(b) when the determination is affirmative, adding behavior information for the current user to a previously created profile for the repeat user and changing the temporary identifier for the current user to the permanent identifier assigned to the repeat user; else

(c) when the determination is negative, adding behavior information for the current user to another profile for the current user and changing the temporary identifier to another permanent identifier assigned to the current user.

60. The method of Claim 59, wherein each identifier is included with a Cookie in an HTTP Response.

61. The method of Claim 59, wherein each identifier is included as a parameter in a query string associated with a selection of a hyperlink in the page.

62. The method of Claim 59, wherein each identifier is provided by a program associated with the client.

63. The method of Claim 43, further comprising associating another type of data with the image in the relational database, the other data type including video, sound and graphic.

64. The method of Claim 43, wherein the image is formatted and stored in the database as a picture, the format including JPEG, GIF and PIC.

65. The method of Claim 43, wherein the image is formatted and stored in the database as a movie, the format including MPEG, QTM and AVI.

66. A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the methods recited in Claim 43.

67. A method for enabling a product associated with an image to be ordered over a network, comprising:

(a) displaying a representation of the product in response to receiving contextual interaction information, the product being associated with information indicating each image that is available for use with the product;

(b) in response to selecting the displayed representation of the product, automatically employing the information associated with the product to display at least a portion of the images available for use with the product; and

(d) when the image is selected, enabling the product available for use with the image to be ordered by a user.

68. A system for placing an order for a product associated with an image over a network, comprising

(a) a server for implementing logical actions, including:

(i) in response to receiving contextual interaction information from a client, providing the image to the client, the image being associated with information that indicates each available product for the image; and

(ii) in response to a request to order the available product for the image, enabling the product to be provided; and

(b) the client for implementing logical actions, including:

(i) providing the contextual interaction information to the server;

(ii) in response to receiving the image, automatically employing the information associated with the image to generate a representation of each product that is available for the image;

(iii) automatically displaying the image and the representation of each product that is available for the image in a page; and

(iv) when the representation of an available product is selected in the displayed page, enabling the available product for the image to be ordered from the server.

69. A method for enabling a product associated with a sound to be provided to a user, comprising:

(a) in response to receiving contextual interaction information, displaying a representation of the sound, the sound being associated with information indicating each product that is available for use with the sound;

(b) automatically employing the information associated with the sound to generate a representation of each product that is available for the sound;

(c) automatically displaying the representation of each product that is available for the sound and the representation of the sound in a page; and

(d) when the representation of an available product is selected in the displayed page, enabling the available product for the sound to be provided to the user.

70. The method of Claim 69, wherein the sound is formatted and stored in a database, the format including WAV and MP3.

71. The method of Claim 69, further comprising associating another type of data with the sound stored in a database, the other type of data including movie, picture and graphic.

72. A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in Claim 69.

73. A client-server system for implementing computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in Claim 69.